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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

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LOS ANGELES COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION PROJECTS, INC.

HOMELESS PROJECT

1991 Year-End Summary

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"The Homeless Project's mission is to serve the legal and other needs of homeless individuals. This past year 527 clients received services valued at over \$110,000 from the Project's 125 volunteers. All services of the Project are provided free of charge and are part of the organized Bar's coordinated efforts to end homelessness."

Background

In February 1988, the Los Angeles County Bar Association established a special committee to investigate homelessness in Los Angeles County and make recommendations as to how the Association could most effectively contribute to improving the plight of the County's homeless population. This special committee identified a number of opportunities for the Association to play a constructive and active role in addressing the problems associated with homelessness. As a result of the the committee's report, the Association created a permanent Homeless Committee which deals with the problems, legislation, and policies which effect the homeless.

In addition, the Association formed the Homeless Project in 1990. The Homeless Project is part of Los Angeles County Bar Association Projects, Inc., a not-for-profit legal service provider created by the Association. This report will briefly review the activities and progress of the Homeless Project during 1991 which resulted in services to 527 homeless individuals.

A. Introduction

The Homeless Project of Los Angeles County Bar Projects, Inc. (here after the "Project") is one of the small handful of legal service projects designed to meet the needs of the County's homeless population. Although staffed by only one full-time directing attorney and one part-time assistant, the Project is able to provide a wide array of services to both homeless clients and the community of service providers which also serve these clients. Most of the Project's services are unique and unduplicated -- all are in high demand.

This past year provided great challenges to the Project. According to Shelter Partnership, the respected service agency, up to 59,100 individuals are homeless in Los Angeles County each day. Within this population there existed a dizzying level of need compounded by the weak economy. Women escaping domestic abuse; children needing medical care and schooling; mentally ill individuals too frightened to seek help; the disenfranchised giving up -- the list is long.

While the Project is not equipped to meet all clients' needs, it has become an important link in the continuum of services necessary to return individuals to stable housing.

B. Legal Service Programs

The Project operates a number of legal service programs designed to meet the legal needs of the poor and homeless. This section will briefly detail some of the major programs of 1991.

1. Shelter Advocacy Project -- This program provides direct legal information and assistance to residents of area private shelters on a monthly basis. Volunteer attorneys are recruited, trained, and dispatched to shelters to provide counseling on a wide range of legal issues, including public benefits, landlord/tenant difficulties, immigration, and employment disputes. By the close of 1991, services were regularly being provided at several area shelters including the Salvation Army Bell Shelter and the North La Brea Shelter of the West Hollywood Homeless Organization.

The purpose of this study is to determine the effect of the treatment on the growth of the fish. The fish were divided into two groups, one receiving the treatment and the other receiving no treatment. The fish were kept in tanks and fed a standard diet. The growth of the fish was measured by weighing them at regular intervals. The results of the study are shown in the following table.

The results of the study show that the treatment had a significant effect on the growth of the fish. The fish receiving the treatment grew significantly faster than the fish receiving no treatment. This was true for all of the fish in the treatment group. The results of the study are shown in the following table.

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3. Results and Discussion

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In September, volunteers of this project began providing services with the assistance of a new training and information guide written by Project staff. An updated expanded version of the guide was published in November with new referral information which will allow volunteers to increase their efficiency and productivity in 1992.

2. Assisting Caseworkers -- Project staff regularly work with shelter and service agency caseworkers, helping them better serve their clients. While most agency staff are qualified in dealing with social service issues, even simple legal difficulties can stump staff and bring a client's progress to a grinding halt.

Often, the Project can provide the simple guidance necessary to allow caseworkers to properly guide their client. Issues most often involve landlord/tenant difficulties, consumer issues, and government benefit problems. When it is clear that more detailed legal assistance is required, the Project is equipped to make appropriate referrals to other legal service providers or through the Association's Lawyer Referral and Information Service.

By the close of 1991, Project staff were assisting approximately 20 caseworkers per month.

3. Assisting Agencies -- The Project provides the corporate entities that operate area shelters and other social service agencies technical and legal advice on issues confronting them and their clients. Project staff and volunteers counsel agencies regularly on emergency incorporation, tax, contracting and regulatory issues. Upon stabilization of an agency's problems, appropriate referrals are made to other legal service providers for long term assistance.

The Project served the needs of 19 agencies in 1991 and continues to work closely with Shelter Partnership in identifying programs in need.

1. The first part of the report is a general introduction to the project. It describes the purpose of the study, the scope of the work, and the organization of the report. It also includes a list of the main findings and conclusions.

2. The second part of the report is a detailed description of the methodology used in the study. It includes a description of the data sources, the sampling method, and the statistical methods used to analyze the data.

3. The third part of the report is a detailed description of the results of the study. It includes a description of the data, the statistical analysis, and the interpretation of the results. It also includes a discussion of the limitations of the study and the implications of the findings.

4. The fourth part of the report is a conclusion and recommendations. It summarizes the main findings of the study and provides recommendations for future research.

5. The fifth part of the report is a list of references. It includes a list of the books, articles, and other sources used in the study.

6. The sixth part of the report is an appendix. It includes a list of the tables, figures, and other material that are included in the report.

Work is currently underway on information manuals regarding the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990 and its legal effects on shelter providers, and legal advocacy techniques. Both should be available to service providers in 1992.

4. Cold/Wet Weather Advocacy Project -- During the months of December, January, and February the City of Los Angeles' Community Development Department operates a 1350-bed emergency shelter system at 10 sites throughout the City. The Project, in cooperation with Public Counsel, the Los Angeles Countywide Coalition for the Homeless, and the City of Los Angeles, provides legal assistance to the clients residing in these shelters.

Based on a model similar to that of the above described Shelter Advocacy Project, volunteer attorneys and advocates are recruited, trained, dispatched to serve residents' legal needs.

In 1991 a new training manual was completed for use in this project. Greatly expanded in its coverage, this manual allows volunteers to be much more effective in serving clients' needs.

C. Public Policy and Community Outreach

The Project is actively involved in public policy work designed to aid the Project's homeless clients. Project staff and volunteers sit on a number of boards and committees concerned with the devastating effects of homelessness. These include the City of Los Angeles Community Development Department's Homeless Steering Committee, the local board of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Business/Government Council to End Homelessness, and the Los Angeles Countywide Coalition for the Homeless.

Of note in 1991, the Project provided significant leadership in the development of the City's Cold/Wet Weather Emergency Sheltering Program, and was named to the steering committee of the Countywide Coalition for the Homeless. The Project also provides staff support for the Los Angeles County Bar Association's Homeless Committee and the Barristers Homeless

Shelter Advocacy Committee and their projects. The combined membership of these groups is in excess of 100 attorneys.

D. Continuing Legal Education

This past year saw the advent of mandatory continuing legal education for California attorneys. In order to use this new requirement as a recruiting tool and to better serve the needs of Project volunteers, staff moved quickly to qualify all trainings for the maximum amount of CLE credit possible.

By year's end, volunteers of both the Shelter Advocacy Project and the Cold/Wet Weather Advocacy Project were receiving CLE credit for their participation. Additionally, all training materials were updated and copyrighted for CLE purposes.

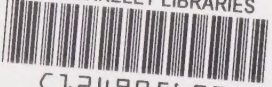
In 1992, the Project will begin presenting CLE seminars as stand alone events. Beyond the financial benefit that this will provide to the Project, such events are likely to result in increased numbers of volunteers.

E. Project Statistics

During 1991, 527 clients were provided services by 101 volunteer attorneys and 24 volunteer law students and paralegals. The value of these services is in excess of \$110,000! Additionally, 19 social services agencies, which serve thousands of clients, received valuable legal information and counseling from the Project. Approximately 81 percent of Project clients are members of a recognized minority group.

F. Future Need

It is clear that the continued services of the Project are necessary. Because of the weak economy and cutbacks in government services and programs, accessing the social service system will remain difficult for the Project's clients and job and housing prospects will remain bleak. However, it is hoped that the Homeless Project can be there to help through advocacy, support, and public policy work.



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1. Introduction

This report was prepared as a preliminary study for the purpose of determining the feasibility of a project to develop a system for the automatic processing of data. The project is being undertaken by the Department of Statistics, University of California, Berkeley, and is being supervised by Professor W. G. Cochran. The project is being undertaken by the Department of Statistics, University of California, Berkeley, and is being supervised by Professor W. G. Cochran. The project is being undertaken by the Department of Statistics, University of California, Berkeley, and is being supervised by Professor W. G. Cochran.

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2. Objectives

The objectives of the project are to develop a system for the automatic processing of data. The project is being undertaken by the Department of Statistics, University of California, Berkeley, and is being supervised by Professor W. G. Cochran. The project is being undertaken by the Department of Statistics, University of California, Berkeley, and is being supervised by Professor W. G. Cochran. The project is being undertaken by the Department of Statistics, University of California, Berkeley, and is being supervised by Professor W. G. Cochran.

3. Summary

It is shown that the automatic processing of data is a feasible project. The project is being undertaken by the Department of Statistics, University of California, Berkeley, and is being supervised by Professor W. G. Cochran. The project is being undertaken by the Department of Statistics, University of California, Berkeley, and is being supervised by Professor W. G. Cochran. The project is being undertaken by the Department of Statistics, University of California, Berkeley, and is being supervised by Professor W. G. Cochran.